

REMARKS:

SUMMARY OF THE EXAMINER'S POSITION

In response to a Final Office Action mailed January 13, 2004, the applicants filed an amendment on March 5, 2004 canceling claims **1-4, 6-7, 11** and **16-18** and making amendments to claims **5, 8, 10, 12** and **13** and adding new claims **20-22**. The Examiner sent an Advisory Action on April 1, 2004 stating that the March 5, 2004 amendment was not entered because it raised new issues. The Examiner indicated that the proposed or amended claims **5, 8-10, 12, 15, 19, 20**, and **22** would be allowable if submitted in a separate timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claims.

REASONS THIS AMENDMENT SHOULD BE ENTERED

The applicants have amended the claims to adopt Examiner suggestions expressly set forth in the Previous Office action and to put the claims in allowable form. As such, entry of these amendments is proper under 37 CFR 1.116(b) & (c).

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner objected to claim **21**. To expedite prosecution, the Applicants have canceled claim **21**, therefore the grounds for objection are moot. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of claim **21** and all other cancelled claims in a later filed divisional or continuation application.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that claims **5, 8-10, 12-15, 19, 20** and **22** would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claims. The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Since the Applicants have canceled the non-allowable claims, all pending claims are allowable.

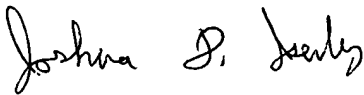
NO FEE IS DUE

The Applicants submit that no fee is due for an extension of time since this amendment is being filed within three months of the mailing date of the original Final Office Action.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicant submits that all claims are allowable over the cited art and define an invention suitable for patent protection. Furthermore, for the reasons set forth above, the Applicant submits that the claims are enabled and are
5 neither vague nor indefinite. The Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner enter this amendment and the March 5, 2004 Amendment, reconsider the application, and issue a Notice of Allowance in the next Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 4/7/2004

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